



Collective Worship Policy

Rationale:

We believe a daily act of worship, of a mainly Christian character, is a valued time in the day to come together to affirm a sense of belonging and share those things which we hold to be important; to celebrate, praise and give thanks. This is in accordance with the requirements of the Education Reform Act of 1988, the Trust Deeds of the school and the recommendations of the Diocesan Board of Education.

Our worships are linked to the 6 Christian values which pupils, parents, staff and governors chose: **respect, friendship, compassion, perseverance, generosity and service** and **truthfulness**.

Aims:

The aim of Collective Worship at St. Mary's is to:

- encourage children's natural sense of wonder of God's creation and to develop their qualities of curiosity, celebration and gratitude which form the foundation of worship.
- heighten their awareness, and respect for, a range of religious traditions and beliefs.
- respect and value the different beliefs of teachers, parents and children as well as enable children to explore and evaluate their own opinions and spirituality.
- underpin the Christian values and ethos of the school.
- provide an opportunity for thought, prayer, reflection and celebration in a caring atmosphere.
- be appropriate to the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of the pupils.
- show children that we are members of a wider community, both local and global.
- encourage care and concern for others in society and the natural world.

Guidelines:

- Collective worship takes place every day:
 - ❖ **Mondays** - Whole School assembly, which introduces the value of the term and the focus for the week.
 - ❖ **Tuesdays** - each class holds its own worship. Records of these are kept in class Religious Reflection Journals.
 - ❖ **Wednesdays** - Key Stage Assemblies: These are linked to the value of the term and uses different ways to encourage pupils to reflect - stories, drama, video clips.
 - ❖ **Thursdays** - whole school singing assembly and Bible Stories linked to the value of the term.

❖ **Fridays** - Whole School Achievers Assembly (staff and pupils celebrate in and out of school achievements)

- Acts of worship are led by members of staff, children, the Vicars from the school's linked churches, or by carefully chosen visitors. Visitors will be supplied with the information needed to plan a relevant, meaningful and inclusive act of worship. This will include details of the current theme, hymns etc.
- Worship will be planned to take account of the major festivals in the Christian calendar, the curriculum framework and current affairs. Selected festivals from other religions will also form part of the programme. These plans should provide continuity and progression, and an opportunity for children to develop spiritually.
- Any notices given will be clearly separated from the act of worship, possibly signified through the lighting of a candle at the start of the worship and extinguished at the end.
- Parents have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship - any wishing to exercise this right are asked to express their wish in writing to the Head.

Conclusion:

Our acts of worship encompass all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that all who take part feel involved. It both reflects and nurtures the ethos of the school. In particular, it develops a feeling of belonging to a community, which is essential for personal development and physical growth. Children will see the act of worship as a time when pupils and staff may express joy and thanks, share experiences and concerns, and affirm the values and beliefs of the Church of England school community of which they are a part.

Reviewed March 2020